

STATEMENT OF  
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NOMINEE FOR  
COMMISSIONER, ADMINISTRATION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

BEFORE THE  
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS  
UNITED STATES SENATE

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Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Campbell and members of the Committee. My name is Quannah Crossland Stamps and I am an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. It is an honor to appear before you as President George W. Bush's nominee to be the Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans (ANA). Joining me today are members of my family, my husband of 17 years, Col. Robert Stamps, and my daughter Sequoyah. I would also like to acknowledge my mother Nora Carrington and my father John Crossland who could not be here with me today, but are watching the live broad cast on the Internet.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, as you know, ANA, is located in the Department of Health and Human Services within the Administration for Children and Families. If I am confirmed for the statutory position of Commissioner, I will have the privilege to work with Secretary Tommy Thompson, and Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, Dr. Wade Horn. We will work together on social and economic development issues affecting American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians, Samoans and other indigenous populations throughout the Pacific Basin.

If confirmed, I will bring to the position a wide range of experiences that have prepared me for this important job. In 1990, I received my bachelor's degree from George Mason University and in 1991 I accepted a position with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in the Division of Contracting and Grants Administration. During my tenure with the BIA, I worked on procurement policies issues governed by the Buy Indian and the Indian Self-Determination Acts. I also worked on the administrative processes that regulated contract and grant awards to Native American owned Business and Tribal organizations.

I reviewed joint venture agreements and teaming arrangements related to the award and performance of BIA contracts. I drafted and provided written and oral comments on pending legislation, and I negotiated the regulations to implement the Indian Incentive and the Mentor-Protégé programs.

In October 1994, I accepted the position of Assistant Administrator for Native American Affairs with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). As the Assistant Administrator, I was the senior policy advisor to the Administrator on business and economic development activities and the delivery of SBA programs that served Alaska, Hawaii and American Indian people in the lower 48 states. While at the SBA, I focused on opportunities to increase participation by Native American businesses and entrepreneurs in SBA's financial, business development, educational and technical assistance programs. As a result of my work, SBA realized a significant increase in the number of Native American businesses participating in these programs.

In fiscal years 1995 and 1996, I developed and implemented a nine state pilot project to establish 21 rural reservation-based Tribal Business Information Centers (TBIC). This was a joint federal initiative with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It involved the negotiation of public/private partnerships in an effort to ensure these communities had access to technical, educational and financial assistance services necessary to establish small businesses and create employment opportunities. Today, due to the hard work of dedicated people and the support of communities, Tribes, Tribal colleges and several federal agencies, there are 18 TBIC's operating which have helped to establish and expand hundreds of small

businesses in areas of the country with chronic, high unemployment.

From 1998 to 2000, I completed my graduate studies in International Commerce and Public Policy at George Mason University. My studies focused on transitional economies, U.S. Trade Agreements, the process of country risk analysis, and international business transactions. In 1998, I also established a consulting practice to provide business technical assistance to foreign companies interested in accessing the U.S. marketplace. I accepted contracts to research the business strategies of U.S. aviation and aerospace companies, to provide business technical assistance to Tribally owned firms, and to review community development proposals on behalf of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Community Development Financial Institutions.

I have worked in the Russian Far East and the Republic of Macedonia on projects to develop small businesses and community development organizations. Each of these projects involved countries whose economies were in severe transition and had very little private sector development or employment opportunities. I worked with organizations to build their business capacities, market their communities, and sell their products in the international marketplace.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee, if confirmed as Commissioner, I will serve as an effective and visible advocate on behalf of Native American people. I will be responsible for the oversight and administration of millions of dollars. The authorizing legislation for ANA is the Native American Programs Act (NAPA) of 1974. Currently, in accordance with this Act, ANA distributes \$45.8 million dollars annually for socio-economic development projects. ANA carries out this function through four discretionary grant programs: the Native Language Preservation Program; the Environmental Regulatory Enhancement Program; the Social, Economic, Developmental Strategies (SEDS) Program; and the Alaska SEDS Program.

In addition to these grant programs, ANA currently has six Training and Technical Assistance Contracts to assist Native Americans with the formulation of their ANA project plans and in the comprehensive development of ANA proposals.

In addition to managing these grant programs, if I am confirmed, I will also be the Chair for the Department of Health and Human Services Intradepartmental Council for Native American Affairs. This Council, which has recently been revitalized by Secretary Thompson and is consistent with the Secretary's "One Department" initiative, will bring together the senior staff of all HHS program offices to improve communication and to coordinate Native American programs and services. It will also ensure the development and consistent administration of policies affecting Native Americans.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I realize that you cannot have healthy families and healthy communities without the appropriate infrastructure, businesses and jobs. I want to assure you that if I am confirmed, I will use creativity and innovation to design and implement social and economic development programs. I intend to partner with other federal agencies and I will negotiate private/public partnerships in order to leverage the ANA budget. In pursuing

these goals, I will confer with Congress, other federal agencies, Tribal governments, Tribal colleges, and Native American organizations.

Mr. Chairman and member of the Committee, as you know, the challenges facing indigenous communities in the United States and its territories are many. But, if we are to have healthy children and healthy families it is incumbent upon us to provide the resources that are appropriate for each distinct community.

Working together with the support of the Congress, the Department of Health and Human Services and other federal agencies we can weave a tapestry of programs that help achieve sustainability and allow indigenous communities to become active participants and contributors to the global economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I look forward to working with all of you. I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have.